(b) whether Government has its avowed policy of encouraging the latest technology; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for choosing pro-DMT policy 1985-86 in preference to pro-PTA policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) to (c) PTA and DMT are alternative raw-materials for manufacture of polyester, though PTA is a later entrant.

The production PTA is yet to be established in the country. However, DMT is available indigenously. The requirements of DMT and PTA depends on the users who would assess their needs based on the various factors such as existing equipments, additional facilities required etc. It is the policy of the Government that indigenous DMT should be used to the maximum extent possible as against the imported PTA till PTA is also available in sufficient quantity indigenously.

It is understood that during 1985, the world consumption of DMT and PTA was around in the ratio of 52% and 48%.

Steps to reduce the import of foreign crude

2565. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that not much foreign exchange could be saved during the last three years on account of oil imports despite indigenisation, new oil finds and import substitution;

(b) whether the production of Indian crude has increased substantially during the period;

(c) if so, what are the details in regard to (a) and (b) above; and

(d) what further steps are being proposed to be taken to reduce the import of foreign crude during the next five years and to develop joint ventures and technical collaborations to locate new area of oil and natural gas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (c) Imports of crude oil/petroleum products are made after taking into consideration the production and demand in the country. Details regarding the indigenous production of crude oil and the amount of foreign exchange spend on crude oil and petroleum products during the last three years are as given below:

Quantity : Million Tonnes
Value : Rs/Crores

Period	Indigenous production of crude oil	Value of imports of crude oil/petroleum products
1983-84	26·02	4812
1984-85	28·99	5345
1985-86*	30·17	4960

*Provisional

If the production of indigenous crude had not gone up as mentioned above, the quantum for foreign exchange spent on imports would have been higher.

(d) Steps being taken to reduce the import of crude oil and to increase production in the country are intensification of exploration, use of enhanced recovery techniques, intensification of work-over operation, induction of advanced technology. Further, 17 proposals have been approved for foreign collaboration for drilling services. Out of these, 13 are for setting up of joint ventures and four for technical collaboration.